

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the above-mentioned Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28 and 29 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,061,808 (Sato), and claims 1-29 were rejected as being unpatentable over Sato. In response thereto, claims 1-18 and 30-43 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 44-77 are added.

In the Examiner's rejection, he refers to FIG. 8 of Sato, which is alleged to show a liner sheet (27), a facestock sheet (25) adhered to the liner sheet, and at least one cut line (30) cut therethrough but not the liner sheet. According to the Examiner, "[t]he construction includes a first and second line segment in the facestock sheet and extending from edge to edge. The facestock sheet is bendable along said line (figure - 12)." Applicants note that the Sato perforations (34) extend through both the facestock and the liner. The perforations are on the face of the label and not outside of its perimeter. Further, the perforations are provided so that they can be engaged by the teeth of a feed roller, and are not provided to separate the liner sheet away from the label thereon. There also is no facestock waste portion outside of the label.

Brief discussions of the patentability of each of the now-pending independent claims follow.

Independent claim 19 includes first and second labels (of the facestock sheet) releasably adhered to the liner sheet, a weakened line segment in the facestock sheet and extending at least substantially between the first and second labels, and the facestock sheet being bendable back on the weakened line segment to thereby separate the liner sheet away from a portion of the first label whereby the label portion can be grasped by a user and the first label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 44 includes a first weakened line segment in the facestock sheet on one side of the label. The first weakened line segment is a cut line through the facestock sheet to the liner sheet. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the line to thereby separate the liner sheet away from a portion of the label, such that the label portion can be grasped by a user and the label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 50 includes line segments on the facestock sheet on opposite sides of the label wherein the line segments are spaced from and do not engage the label. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the line to thereby separate the liner sheet away from a portion of the label such that the label portion can be grasped by a user and the label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 57 includes first and second weakened line segments on opposite sides of the label and defining a first line, and third and fourth weakened line segments on opposite sides of the label and defining a second line, the second line passing through a portion of the label closer to the center of the label than the first line, the second line being spaced from and generally parallel to the first line. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the first and second lines to thereby pull the liner sheet away from a portion of the label, whereby the label portion can be grasped by a user and the label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 65 includes first and second line segments in the facestock sheet on opposite sides of the label where the line segments do not penetrate the liner sheet. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the line defined by the line segments to thereby separate the liner sheet away from a portion of the liner such that the label portion can be grasped by a user and the label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 67 includes a cut line through a facestock sheet and forming a label which is positioned within a perimeter of the facestock and spaced a distance inward of side and edges of the perimeter. First and second line segments on opposite sides of the label lie on the same line. The facestock sheet is bendable back on this line to thereby separate the liner sheet away from a portion of the label such that the label portion can be grasped by a user and the label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 69 includes at least one cut line through the facestock sheet but not the liner sheet to form a label, and also at least one facestock waste portion outside of the label. First and second line segments in the facestock sheet on opposite sides of the label lie on the same line. The line segments are on the waste portion, and not on the label. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the line to thereby separate the liner sheet away from the portion of the label such that the label portion can be grasped by a user and the label peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 73 includes a weakened fold line of a facestock sheet that is die cut through the facestock sheet but does not penetrate the liner sheet which is adhered to the facestock sheet. The facestock sheet includes a line of facestock sheet labels. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the weakened fold line to thereby separate the liner sheet away from portions of the aligned labels such that the label portions can be individually grasped by a user and the labels individually peeled off of the liner sheet.

Independent claim 75 includes a facestock sheet including a line of facestock sheet labels and a weakened fold line. The facestock sheet, which is adhered to an underlying liner

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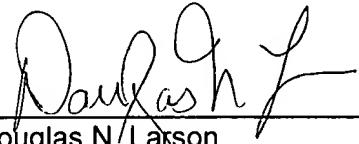
sheet, is bendable back on the weakened fold line to separate the liner sheet away from portions of the aligned labels whereby the label portions can be individually grasped by a user and the labels individually peeled off the liner sheet and away from the surrounding portions of the facestock sheet.

Independent claim 77 includes a facestock sheet including a line of spaced facestock sheet labels and a weakened fold line. The facestock sheet is adhered to an underlying liner sheet. The facestock sheet further includes at least one facestock waste portion wherein the weakened fold line is on the facestock waste portion and not on any of the labels. The facestock sheet is bendable back on the weakened fold line to thereby separate the liner sheet away from portions of the aligned labels whereby the label portions can be individually grasped by a user and the labels individually peeled off of the liner sheet.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is in order. If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone counsel (at counsel's new telephone number set forth below) to seek to resolve them.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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